for posing the same to some external donar agency for assistance. Approval of the project proposal by the Union Government depends on the availability of external assistance.

[English]

GAIL

677. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the commitment made to Asian Development Bank for divesting holding in Gas Authority of India Limited and the divestment made so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to honour the commitment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) A commitment was made to the Asian Development Bank in 1994 that Govt. would divest 30% of its holding in GAIL by December 1996. 5% of Govt. holdings were offered to domestic investors in January, 1995 and based on the bids received 3.67% of the equity was sold to the investors.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Based on the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission the Govt. has approved further divestment upto 25% equity in GAIL. The process is expected to be completed by end of the current financial year.

World Bank Loan for Highway Projects in Andhra Pradesh

678. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide loan to the Union Government for State highway projects to be set up in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has prepared any plan for development of roads on the proposed loan that will be provided by the World Bank; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The plan covers strengthening and widening of State Highways totalling to a length of about 1347 Kms. of high density corridors. The project is envisaged to be taken up in 3 phases and is targeted for completion by the year 2002.

Performance of Private Students

679. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the results of private students in class 12th examination this year were not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether discriminatory attitude is adopted while checking the papers of private students in comparison to the regular students;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether more formality is displayed on the demand of unsuccessful students for rechecking the papers by just rechecking the total marks obtained by the candidates and the rechecked copies are not shown to the aggrieved candidates;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to consider the demand of the students to show them their rechecked copies on demand basis sympathetically; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), 26.68% private candidates passed in the Class XII examination conducted by the Board in 1997 as compared to pass percentage of 27.49 and 25.94 in 1996 and 1995 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The CBSE has informed that in the case of candidates applying for re-checking, proper scrutiny of marks is undertaken as per the provisions of the Examination Bye-Laws of the Board. There is no provision under the Examination Bye-Laws of the Board to show the answer scripts to the candidates.

(f) and (g) The CBSE does not consider it administratively feasible to accept the demand to show answer scripts to the candidates.

Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

680. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAWALA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to complete at least two irrigation projects in a year from 1997-98 onwards;

(b) if so, the names of the first two projects proposed to be undertaken by the State Government during 1997-98;

(c) the actual cost involved therein;

(d) whether the Union Government have already given clearance to these projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the concrete programme formulated to complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) According to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh there is no commitment from the Chief Minister that he would complete two irrigation projects in a year from 1997-98 onwards.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Four-Lane in Andhra Pradesh

681. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to refer the Andhra Pradesh proposal for constructing the four-lane 2,000 km. long express highway to the Malaysian Government;

(b) if so, the date on which the proposal has been forwarded;

(c) whether the Malaysian Government have agreed to provide the expertise for developing express ways in the State during Chief Minister's visit to that country;

(d) the details of proposals sent to the Malaysian Government; and

(e) the time by which their approval is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b), (d) and (e) Do not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SKO/LDO Distributors in Delhi

682. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 645 dated February 26, 1997 regarding SKO/LDO distributors in Delhi and state:

(a) whether the Government have collected the information regarding the number of SKO/LDO dealers in National Capital Territory of Delhi as on date;

(b) the quantity of kerosene oil/light diesel oil allotted to these agencies during the last three years;

(c) whether several complaints have been received recently regarding less allotment by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in National Book Trust

683. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be state:

(a) whether news regarding irregularities in the matter related to promotion in 'National Book Trust' have appeared in some newspapers;

(b) if so, the number of cases in which irregularities have been committed and whether departmental enquiry has been conducted in these cases;

(c) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light; and